

## DIGGING UP GRAVES OF ANCIENT DAYS

How Our Ghastly Archaeologists Are Unearthing Those of Four Thousand Years Ago.

### GREAT CEMETERY OF CHEOPS

Discoveries Made for Harvard College and the Boston Museum.

CAIRO, July 15, 1907. THE most important archaeological work now going on in Egypt is in the hands of the Americans. Our scientists are making explorations in Nubia, away up the Nile, and they are opening up temples and tombs in the desert near Luxor. There is a rich Yankee, named Davis, who is carrying on a series of independent investigations not far from old Thebes. He has spent large sums and has discovered the tombs of several kings who reigned over 4,000 years ago. He recently unearthed the mummy of Queen Hatchepsut, which is now on view in the museum at Cairo, and he has made many other finds this past year.

Right here, under the shadow of the pyramids, two American institutions have a large force of natives at work and have uncovered a cemetery of the time when the great pyramid of Cheops was built. This cemetery includes the tombs not only of the rich, but also of the poor, and the relics, statues and other things found in it enable one to reconstruct the lives of those who were buried here now more than 4,000 years ago.

#### The Cemetery of Cheops.

When I last visited Egypt, just after the assassination of President Garfield, the sands about the pyramids were almost as smooth as those of the seashore. I galloped on my donkey over them and had no idea that I was tramping down innumerable graves. I walked over the same ground yesterday, picking my way in and out through a vast network of half-broken-down tombs, from which the sands had been shoveled, and climbed across piles of sun-dried brick which were made by the Egyptians at the time old King Cheops lived and reigned.

I saw a gang of half-naked, brown-skinned fellahs shoveling the earth into the cars in which it is carried far out in the desert, in order to unearth the tombs below.

#### Harvard College and Boston Museum.

The excavations which are now being made near the Great Pyramid are in the interest of Harvard College and the Boston Museum. They furnish the money, and Dr. George Reisner, one of the most efficient archaeologists of the day, has charge of the work. Dr. Reisner came to Egypt about six years ago at the head of the Harpur expedition. He worked for it several years and made valuable explorations far up the Nile. He discovered there the flint-working camps of the people of the prehistoric period, and he explored quarries which date back to the times of the Ptolemies. He also unearthed the site of a large town which was in existence 1,500 years before Christ and excavated a mass of valuable material therefrom. He then came nearer Cairo and there uncovered cemeteries of ancient times, which give us a new view of Egyptian civilization.

It was in connection with the Boston Museum that he began his work at the pyramids, and as it is now carried on, the museum gets all of the art discoveries, while Harvard receives everything found bearing upon history and ethnology. It should be said that one-half of all that is unearthed goes to the Egyptian government and the other half to the United States.

#### Uncle Sam's Successful Gamble.

The story of the allotment of the archaeological territory about the pyramids is interesting. The government was anxious to have the country excavated, and there were three nations ready to do the work. The three were Germany, Italy and the United States. Archaeologists representing each of these countries came here as its representatives, and the whole of the Gizeh Pyramid field was turned over to them, with the understanding that Egypt was to have half of the discoveries.

Then the question came up as to how the field should be divided. As it was

## AMERICANS AT THE PYRAMIDS.



THE GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS, AS SEEN FROM THE DESERT.

then, it was a great area of sand not far from the banks of the Nile, with the big Pyramid of Cheops and the smaller ones of Khafren and Mycerinus rising out of it, each being quite a distance apart from the others. Each nation wished to do independent work, and the archaeologists finally agreed to divide the tract into three sections and cast lots for them. I am told that Mrs. Dr. Reisner held the straws. In the drawing the United States got the tract just north of the Great Pyramid, and Germany and Italy those to the south of it. Our tract was thought to be the best of all, and Uncle Sam's luck has been no better evidenced than right here. We are making more finds than both the other nations put together, and are bringing new life to the pages of history.

#### In the Desert With an American Excavator.

I went out to the Pyramids to-day and called upon the chief of the American excavation works. Dr. Reisner has built his home under the shadow of old Cheops.

He is beyond that greatest of the pyramids, with the same reaching for miles away on the north, south and west of him. His house is built of stones which probably came from the pyramids. It is a long, one-story structure, not over twelve feet in height, but large enough to contain a laboratory, a photographic establishment and the necessary instruments of an archaeological expedition.

One part of it is the living quarters of Dr. Reisner and his family. He has his wife and baby with him, and as we chatted together his little daughter, a bright-eyed infant not more than a year or so old, played about our feet. The baby was born here on the edge of the Libyan desert, and her youth and the age of old Cheops, that great tomb of more than 4,000 years ago, were striking in their contrast. As I looked at the little one I thought of the tombs of the babies of more than forty centuries ago which her father is now excavating.

During my stay we examined some photographs of Dr. Reisner's discoveries. One represented three statues of a well-to-do couple who lived here in those bygone ages. It was Teti and his wife. The faces were life-like and I doubt not Mr. and Mrs. Teti sat for them.

There were other photographs of objects found in the cemetery of the rich, and also some found in the cemetery of the poor. The higher classes of that time were buried nearer the pyramid, and beyond them, farther up the desert, were the burial places of the poor. The latter are, I believe, the only graves of that class so far discovered. Each poor person had a little coffin-like hole in the ground, built round with stones. These holes were close together, making, as it were, a great series of stone boxes, reminding one of the compartments for eggs in a packing case.

#### To the Pyramids by Trolley.

This is the third time that I have made lengthy visits to the pyramids of Egypt. In 1882 I rode to them on a donkey. In 1889 I came out from Cairo in a comfortable carriage, and to-day I passed over the same route on an electric trolley, paying 7-12 cents for the trip. The street cars to the pyramids begin at the end of the bridge, opposite Cairo, and go along the side of a wide avenue, which is shaded by acacia trees. The cars are open and one can look out over the Nile Valley as he goes. The track runs along one of the main roads and we whizzed by caravans of donkeys, loaded with all sorts of farm products, and by camels, ridden by gawny men, who bobbed up and down in the saddle as they went. There were men, women and children

on foot, and veiled women on donkeys.

The cars were filled with Egyptians. Two dark-faced men in black gowns and white turbans sat on the seat beside me. In front was a yellow-skinned Arab dandy in a red fez cap and long gown, and just behind me sat a woman with a black veil fastened to her headpiece by a brass pin. As we neared the pyramids we stopped at a cafe where they sold American drinks, and a little further on was a great hotel, containing a telephone, electric lights and all modern improvements.

#### From the Top of Cheops.

I took a donkey for my ride to the great Pyramid of Cheops, and went clear around it, climbing up the stones here and there to see how it was made.

I have gone to the top and made notes of the desert as it stretches out for miles on three sides, and also of the valley of the Nile, which, with its teeming millions, is in view not far away. The top of the pyramid is about thirty feet square. It is as big as a good-sized parlor, and is one of the most interesting roof gardens known to man. As I sat there I could see the work going on in the sands below me, and I repopulated them with the men now being dug up under the superintendence of our Americans. In my mind's eye I could see them as they toiled here over 4,000 years ago. I could see them dragging the great blocks over the road of polished stone, which had been made for the purpose, and observe the sweat rolling down their dusty faces under this blazing sun of Egypt, as, under the lashes of their task-masters, the great pile grew. There was an army of them. One hundred thousand men worked three months of every year for more than twenty years on this construction, and Herodotus says that the laborers ate cost \$1,750,000. If that was the price of relishes, what must the real food have cost? How much must have been spent on clothing and how much on tools?

#### Millions of Stone Blocks.

The Great Pyramid was composed of 2,200,000 separate blocks of stone. It covered thirteen acres, and still contains more than three million cubic yards of solid masonry, taking out the chambers within it. Its perpendicular height is just about that of a forty-five-story flat, allowing ten feet to each story; it is within one hundred feet of the height of the Washington Monument, provided you do not count the aluminum tip of the latter.

These stones are of different sizes. Some are as big as a flat-topped office desk and some are so high that you require two men to pull you onward as you climb from terrace to terrace. I am told that old Cheops weighs something like 5,000,000 tons; so much that if the blocks were torn apart and loaded on wagons it would take something like 10,000,000 horses, or more than half of all the horses in the United States, to drag it off to the sea.

For such an undertaking the stones would have to be broken to pieces. There are few of them which do not weigh at least two tons, and some of the large blocks which cover the king's chamber inside the structure weigh sixty tons. As measured in climbing up it there are about 200 courses and the blocks vary in height from two to five feet. It is estimated that the Great Pyramid contains, all told, almost 90,000,000 cubic feet of limestone. This is so much that if it could be split into flags, four inches thick, it would furnish enough to make a pavement two feet wide reaching over sea and land around the globe.

#### A Quarry for Ages.

When Cheops completed this great structure he coated the outside with limestone and granite slabs. The sides were as smooth as glass; they met in a point at the top and the length of each side was eighteen feet longer than it is now. The pyramid was a great deal higher, and as the bright

sun played upon its polished surface it must have formed a magnificent sight.

The outside coating has been long since torn away. Throughout the ages the people of the Nile Valley have been getting their building stones from it. Many of the mummies of Cheops and his successors have been found in the quarry of this part of the world for generation after generation these thousands of years.

As it is to-day when one views it from afar, the Great Pyramid still looks like a smooth block of stone. The stones are piled one on the other in regular layers. There is no cement between them, but they are clinched with a rough mortar which has withstood the weather for more than 4,000 years. I dug at some of this mortar with my knife, but could not loosen it, and went from block to block, along the great structure on the side, facing the western desert, finding the mortar everywhere solid.

#### Not So Old After All.

And this great structure was built over 4,000 years ago. It seems long time, but when you figure out how many lives it means it is not so old after all. Every one of us knows 100 men who have reached sixty years of age. The aggregate lives of the men who have lived since the beginning of this great structure, in other words, if a man at forty should live to be forty and then have a child, and the program of life should so continue, it would take only 100 such men to reach to the days when the breath from the garlic and onions eaten by those 100,000 men polluted this desert air today.

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#### The Pyramid Plateau.

Leaving the Pyramid of Cheops I crossed over and took a look at the other two which form the rest of the great trio at Gizeh, and I have since been up to the site of old Memphis, where are the Pyramids of Sakkara, eleven in number.

Along this plateau, running up the Nile, are to be found the remains of

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a large number of pyramids. There are also some of the Pyramid, and others far up the river, in ancient Ethiopia. The latter are taller in proportion to their base than the Egyptian Pyramids, and they generally have a half with sculptures facing the east to commemorate the dead.

The most of the stones of these pyramids have come from the plateau upon which they stand and from the Mokottan hills, about twelve miles away, on the other side of the Nile. There was an inclined plane leading to the river, and the route in the stone road cut out by the runners of the sledges carrying these great blocks are still to be seen. There are pictures on some of the monuments which show how the stones were carried on sledges by oxen and men, and in one of the pictures a man is pouring oil on the roadbed. On the island of Madaya, where the natives drag sleds by hand up and down the hills, they grease their sled runners, but the ancient they also greased not only the sledges, but the roads as well.

#### Inside the Pyramid.

I was much interested in the interior of the Great Pyramid. The mighty structure is supposed to be solid, with the exception of three chambers connected with the outside by passages, ways and ventilated by shafts. These chambers undoubtedly once contained great treasures of gold and silver, but they were robbed in the first instance over three thousand years ago, and it is known that the Persians, the Romans and the Arabs all tried to dig into them to find the valuables they were supposed to hold.

It was with three half-naked Bedouins that I climbed up to the entrance which leads into old Cheops. There is a hole about forty-five feet above the desert on the north side. Going in here, we came into a narrow stone passage, so low that I had to crawl on my hands and knees. The passage first sloped downward and then up, and finally pushed and pulled by the Bedouins, I got into a long narrow hall, and after passing through it into the room where old Cheops, the king, rested undisturbed for thousands of years or so before the looters came. I had some matches and a piece of magnesium wire, and by this means I was able to examine the interior. The masonry is wonderfully fine. The places where the stones are joined are almost imperceptible, and you cannot see the blade between the cracks. The only thing left in this room is the great granite sarcophagus of King Cheops, and the cover to it has disappeared.

By going back through the hall one reaches another chamber, the queen's, which is much smaller than that of the king. Down below this reached another passage connecting with that which I first entered, there is a subterranean chamber, which is far below the base of the pyramid. The whole structure is intensely interesting, and if it could be explored by diamond drills or in some other way, other chambers might possibly be found in the parts now looked upon as solid.

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#### Scientific Plaything.

The paradoxical scientific plaything of Prof. L. R. Wilberforce has been entertaining British physicists. A helical spring is fixed to an unyielding support, and at its lower end it carries a weight, with four screws whose ends are so adjusted that the spring vibrates up and down and twists on its vertical axis in approximately the same period. When the adjustment is made the energy of one motion is transferred to the other in a very singular manner. If the spring is pulled down and released, it rapidly ascends and descends, at the same time beginning to oscillate like a balance wheel, the side turning increases as the up-and-down motion lessens, and then the latter ceases altogether. This is but momentary, when a reverse action takes place. That is, the rotation gradually slows down and the vertical motion increases. The two motions alternating in this course for more than an hour, and for more than two hours in one apparatus that has been tried.

#### Willing to Try.

"It's so sweet of you, Mr. Guffy," she gurgled, "to want me to marry you. But papa says I'm such an extravagant girl. Do you think you could dress me?"

"Well," he stammered blushing, "I think I could, if you don't have these waists that fasten in the back with hooks and eyes—Cleveland Ledger.



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**STRAIGHT**

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